

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 02924 300921Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 300843Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5600
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2924

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP, JO, XF
SUBJECT: WEIZMAN MISSION TO EGYPT: JORDANIAN REACTION

1. PRIME MINISTER BADRAN IN DISCUSSION WITH ME AT A LUNCHEON
MARCH 29 WAS QUITE SKEPTICAL ABOUT ADVIS-
ABILITY OF EGYPT RECEIVING FORTHCOMING WEIZMAN MISSION IN CURRENT
CIRCUMSTANCES, I.E. BEGIN'S INTRANSIGENCE ON WEST BANK ISSUE
AND CONTINUING PRESENCE OF IDF IN SOUTH LEBANON. BADRAN
ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW IT COULD BE IN EITHER THE ARAB OR THE
U.S. INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AT THIS TIME.

2. I SAID IN REPLY THAT I WAS NOT CONVERSANT WITH THE DETAILS
CONCERNING THE WEIZMAN VISIT WHICH PRESS WAS SPECULATING ABOUT
BUT THAT I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SADAT HAS
IN ANY WAY CHANGED HIS FUNDAMENTAL POSITION THAT HE IS SEEKING
A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE.

3. IN OTHER CONVERSATIONS SAME DAY BOTH KING HUSSEIN AND BADRAN
MENTIONED TO ME THEIR CONCERN OVER ICNREASINGLY EXPOSED
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POSITION OF SADAT AND I BELIEVE JORDANIAN CONCERN OVER
WEIZMAN MEETING IS IN CONTEXT OF ADVERSE REACTION IT WILL
RECEIVE IN ARAB WORLD UNLESS SADAT PROVES IT WAS REALLY
JUSTIFIED.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BADRAN IS LESS SOPHISTICATED IN NUANCES
OF MIDEAST DIPLOMACY THAN KING HUSSEIN, HE IS PROBABLY

QUITE REPRESENTATIVE OF JORDANIAN PUBLIC REACTION TO
WEIZMAN MISSION. FROM HERE IT LOOKS AS THOUGH SADAT WILL
NEED TO DEMONSTRATE AT CONCLUSION OF WEIZMAN MISSION THAT
IT WAS JUSTIFIED IN SERVING WIDER ARAB INTEREST OR HE MAY
FACE CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM IN OTHER PARTS OF ARAB WORLD. GIVEN
KNOWLEDGE OF OUR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH EGYPT AND ISRAEL
AND OF OUR FACILITATING RECENT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MESSAGES ABOUT
WHICH SO LITTLE IS KNOWN, WE CAN EXPECT THAT ARAB SCRUTINY OF
RESULTS OF FORTHCOMING WEIZMAN MEETING WILL ALSO
BE DIRECTED AT U.S..
SUDDARTH

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